

young last-wedded wife complained to his older wife that he made her serve the *armengols*. The older wife told her to remember that she had herself enjoyed this life and had been served by the married women. All girls liked to earn the money by which, when they came home, they got husbands.

It was ancient custom and must be obeyed. If the married women refused to do their duty, the men would not be served, for a married woman might never show the world that she was on intimate terms with her husband. That would be *mugul*, and when once that word lost its force the whole island would perish. A woman argued to Semper that the custom was a good one because it gave the women a chance to see the other islands, and because they learned to serve and obey the men. It was, she said, their sacred duty. Any girl who did not go abroad as an *armengol* would get the reputation of being stupid and uncultivated, and would get no husband.¹ Cases in which husbands are indifferent to the fidelity of wives to the marriage taboo occur, but they are rare.² In some Arabic tribes of Sahara, even those in which the struggle for existence is not severe, fathers expect daughters to ransom themselves from the expense of their rearing by prostitution. The notion of sex honor has not yet overcome the sense of pecuniary loss or gain. The more a woman gains, the more she is sought in marriage afterwards. Tuareg married women enter into relations with men not their husbands, like those of women with their lovers in the woman cult of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in central Europe. These women have decent and becoming manners, with much care for etiquette.³ A thirteenth-century writer says of the

Mongol women
that they are " chaste, and nothing is heard
amongst them of
lewdness, but some of the expressions they use in
joking are
very shameful and coarse." The same is true now.⁴
An Arab
author is cited as stating that at Mirbat women
went outside
the city at night to sport with strange men. Their
own husbands

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Cf. Christian, *Caroline fsl*, 290.

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JAI, XV, 8; *U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 1888, 339.

³ Duveyrier, *Totiares du Nord*, 340, 429.

* Rubruck, *Eastern Parts*^ 79, Rockhill's note.